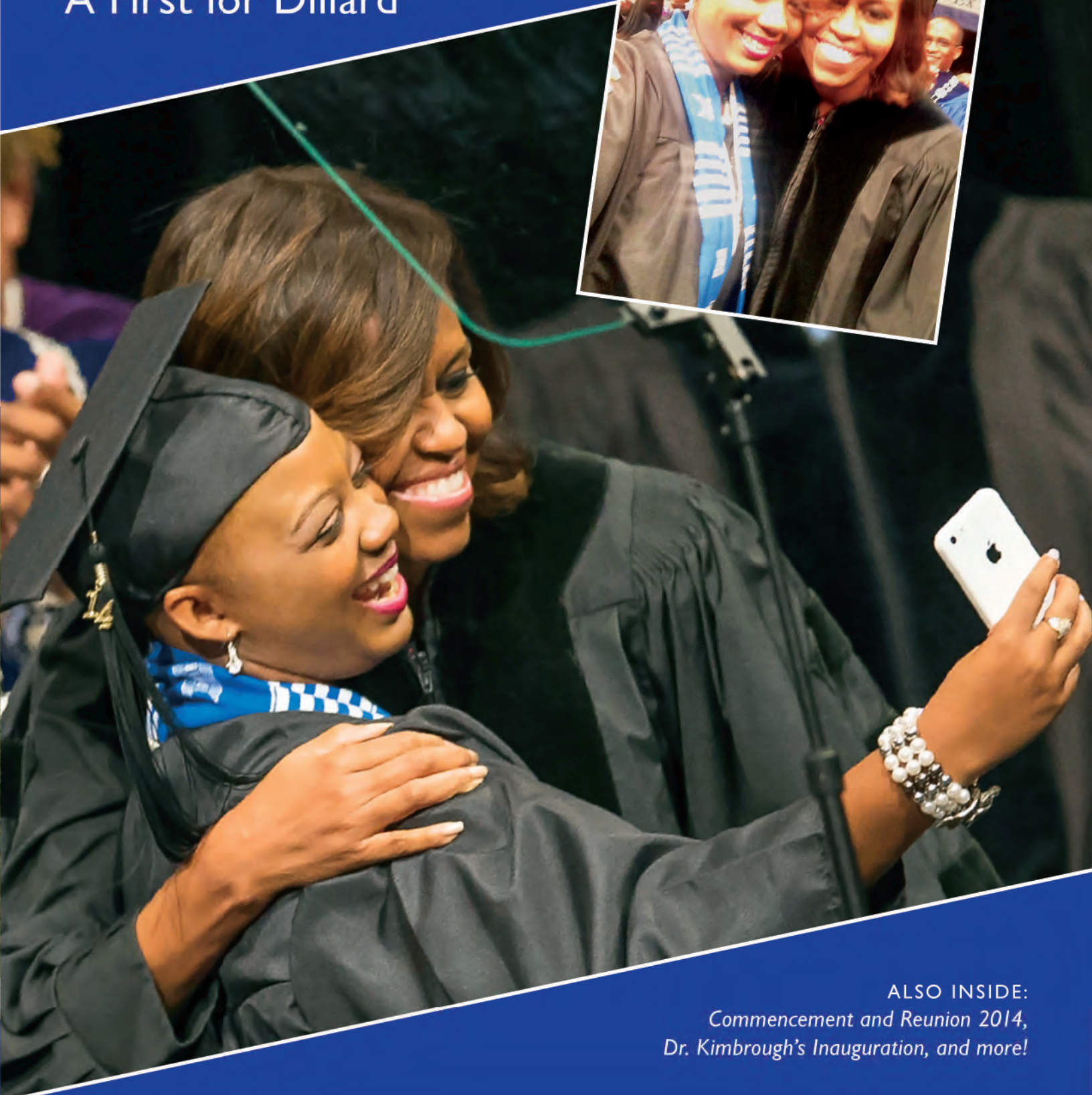


# DILLARD *Today*

FALL 2014

A MAGAZINE FOR THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF DILLARD UNIVERSITY

## First Lady: A First for Dillard



ALSO INSIDE:  
*Commencement and Reunion 2014,  
Dr. Kimbrough's Inauguration, and more!*





*Former Board of Trustees Chairperson Joyce Roche' clasps the official presidential medallion around Dr. Walter Kimbrough's neck as Professor of Sociology Carroll Wiltz (left) looks on.*

*Dillard Today is published by Dillard University's Office of University Communications & Marketing, 2601 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70122. Visit [dillardtoday@dillard.edu](mailto:dillardtoday@dillard.edu) for questions and comments.*

*Dillard University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097.*





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**ON THE COVER:** Nicole Tinson and First Lady Michelle Obama pose for selfie after her introduction during 2014 Commencement. It was the first selfie the First Lady has ever taken during a commencement ceremony. Photo by Chris Granger courtesy of The Times Picayune. **INSET:** Actual selfie from Nicole's cell phone



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Walter M. Kimbrough, Ph.D.

## Turn down for what?

Popular music is funny because it has a way of creating catch phrases with little to no real meaning. In some cases, a phrase gets interpreted many ways so that its utility is based solely upon the user of the phrase. A recent popular phrase from a very simple song says “Turn down for what?” It seems to be a response to another phrase which has gone mainstream, this idea of being “turned (or turnt) up,” meaning to get energized, excited, even loose, usually aided by some fermented beverage. This new phrase simply implies that the state of euphoria should be continued; why stop?

And with my academic explanation of hip-hop lyrics out of the way, this phrase does provide a message for the Dillard University community. We are riding a wave of great accomplishments and achievements, so there is no reason for us to stop. Let’s keep the momentum going.

Think about this past year. We closed the Katrina chapter by re-opening the final residence halls that needed renovation. The campus hosted a Founders’ Day weekend that included the best inaugural ceremony I’ve ever seen (and my speech wasn’t half bad either). That weekend we launched a SAFE fund to help students stay in school with a \$50,000 lead gift by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. It worked, with our spring enrollment at 98 percent of fall enrollment.

We continue to receive notoriety in a number of areas. Our no smoking campus initiative was covered by the media and includes us as part of this growing movement. We hosted dozens of Brazilian students and teachers throughout the year. Our AKA, Zeta, Sigma and Alpha chapters won state or regional awards. Our men’s track and field team won the conference meet.

Our athletic director, Kiki Barnes, was named AD of the Year. Senior class president Nicole Tinson was named to the inaugural list of White House HBCU All-Stars. And of course, Nicole’s efforts secured the biggest commencement speaker in the state, and for any HBCU in the nation, First Lady Michelle Obama. Based on a social media metrics study, we had the sixth most influential commencement speaker in the nation this year (which is why the Class of 2015 is panicked!)

We continued our success this summer by hosting the HBCU Media Week program, and garnering awards such as best nursing program (second year in a row), and best female alumnus, Dr. Cynthia Butler-McIntyre. Our alumni responded as well by doubling their giving rate in one year.

Only one thing scares me. I think this is just the tip of what we can do. We are nowhere near our full potential. And with our incoming class showing tremendous school pride already on Twitter, my initial question is appropriate.

Turn down for what?

Walter M. Kimbrough, Ph.D.  
President





### Fall 2014 Brain Food and Ortique lecture speakers announced

The president's lecture series, Brain Food, starts this fall with the politically appetizing presence of Michael Steele, the first African American Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Thursday, Sept. 18; on Oct. 14, Maggie Anderson, author, activist and co-founder of the Empowerment Experiment that involved her family living a whole year as "buy black-only" consumers. On Dec. 2, the Justice Revis O. Ortique Jr. Lecture on Law and Society welcomes high-powered attorney Benjamin Crump. Crump represented the family of Trayvon Martin, the Florida teenager who was killed by George Zimmerman.

All of these lectures are free and open to the public. Each is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on Dillard University's campus.

### Minority Health Research Center continues work started in 2010

Dillard University's Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center (MHHDRC) is the first federally funded Center of Excellence Louisiana. In 2010, Dillard and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) in New Orleans secured a five-year grant from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities of NIH to establish a MHHDRC located on Dillard's campus. Dr. Betty P. Dennis, former professor and dean for the School of Nursing and Dr. John Estrada,

associate professor of Pediatrics at LSUHSC, wrote the grant proposal. The Center continues to work in three core areas to achieve its mission. The core areas are research, training and community engagement.

### Faculty and staff honored for service and commitment

Dillard University honored this year's exemplary faculty and staff members for their service, dedication, money-earning research and teaching skills at the Faculty/Staff Awards dinner, held May 5 in the PSB Atrium.

During the event, Dr. Walter Kimbrough awarded his first All-Star Staff and Faculty honors to Michelle Matthew, for her event planning and flexibility; business professor Kemberly Washington, for her media and promotional skills; Mary Catherine Clementine (Ms. Cat), for dedication and impeccable service to the Kimbrough family; and Dr. Abdalla Darwish, for his research and innovation in the areas of physics and academic affairs.

Visit [dillard.edu](http://dillard.edu) and click on the Flickr icon to see more photos of this year's winners.

### Citizens of the world to convene at Dillard thanks to Melton Foundation

As one of the foundation's participating campuses, Dillard University is the host institution for the Melton Foundation's 2014 Global Citizens Conference, Sept. 29 to Oct. 6. The Conference convenes more than 100 Melton Fellows, and faculty from universities in China, India, Chile and Germany who are advocates, practitioners, and experts at building global communities.



Christine Madden, '14, was among Dillard Melton fellows who visited Bangalore, India with the 2013 Global Citizens Conference.

The conference aims to build communities around global citizenship in order to promote the concept and its practices; further the learning and leadership development of Melton Fellows as global citizens and advocates of global citizenship; and bring global citizenship to the "grass-roots" level, by working on local aspects of global issues at the host university and surrounding local community.

Dr. Lana Chambliss oversees the fellows and their global initiatives and development projects at Dillard University. Dillard has 19 senior and junior fellows.

### Online web community connects grads and makes giving easier

Dillard University's Alumni Relations and Development offices are launching Alumni MyDU, a new alumni-focused online community for graduates. Alumni MyDU will make it easier for Dillard graduates to connect with each other and to register for alumni-related activities.

By going to [www.dillard.edu/alumni](http://www.dillard.edu/alumni), Dillard alumni can update their MyDU record and place their contact information into a class-year directory. The name of each Dillard graduate is listed by class year. Specific details like phone numbers





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**Walter M. Kimbrough**  
@HiphopProf  
Tomorrow @dill1869 will celebrate the life of Nellie Crump, a 1931 graduate of New Orleans U. which became Dillard: [shar.es/LuQE?](#)  
RT Retweeted by Dillard University  
Expand



*"This is your obligation. I want you to keep reaching higher. I want you all to keep raising your bars. Let the next generation know that there is no greater investment than a good education" - Michelle Obama, 2014 Dillard University Commencement Speaker*

New look can be found at [www.dillard.edu/alumni](http://www.dillard.edu/alumni)

and addresses are privately managed, allowing alumni to decide what they want to share with others. The site also features an online message board.

"This is a service designed for our alumni family and helps strengthen our relationships by making staying in touch with Dillard University a more personal experience. It also allows alumni to invest in Fair Dillard, make recurring gifts, view their own giving history and tell us about major milestones in their lives," said Marcel McGee, Annual Fund Officer.

The new online community rolled out phase one on Aug. 15.

#### **Lumina Foundation sponsors summit targeting the collegiate experience of black male students**

Dr. Shaun Harper specializes in the study of black male success and failure rates at colleges and universities. As a keynote speaker and panelist during the Louisiana Black Male Summit held on campus last spring, Harper and several others outlined in exact terms what higher education "must" do to increase the numbers of black men graduating from college.

"To increase their educational attainment, the popular one-sided emphasis on failure and low-performing Black male undergraduates must be counterbalanced with insights gathered from those who somehow manage to navigate their way to and through higher education, despite all that is stacked against them—low teacher expectations, insufficient academic preparation for college-level work, racist and culturally unresponsive campus environments, and the debilitating consequences of severe underrepresentation, to name a few," said Harper, director of the Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania.

Joining Dr. Harper on the panel were Michael Hutchinson, former director of the Black Male Initiative at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, and Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe, founder of the Student African American Brotherhood. Hutchinson's program helps to increase graduation rates among black males; and Dr. Bledsoe shared details of his program that prepares boys and young men to succeed in school at all levels.

The event was hosted by Dillard University and sponsored by the Lumina Foundation.

#### **HBCU Digest recognized Dillard for being among the best in the business**

Dillard University hosted the HBCU Digest's 2014 Media Summit and Awards ceremony honoring best practices, programs, alumni and leaders among the nation's 105 historically black colleges and universities.

More than 150 guests attended the July 10-12 event. Among this year's honorees were Dr. Walter Kimbrough for Best Male President; Cynthia Butler-McIntyre, '77, Best Female Alumnus; and Dillard University's School of Nursing was recognized as Best Nursing Program.

Jarrett Carter, founder of HBCU Digest, said Dillard provided ample space and state-of-art facilities needed to "carry off another successful Summit and Awards Ceremony." Last year the event was held at Jackson State University.



Cynthia Butler-McIntyre, '77



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

## George, '59, and Shirley Dumas Coaston, '62

*Their love for Dillard and each other endures for 53 years*

George and Shirley Dumas Coaston host an annual summer party in their Oakland, Calif., home that connects them to Dillard University through new students on their way to starting their college experience.

"We've been hosting the Summer Send Offs for around nine years now and we enjoy being connected to Dillard through new sets of eyes and minds," said Shirley. "We even have continuing students from the area come over to brief new students on what they may experience in their college lives. One student met her new roommate at our house."

As proud graduates of Dillard, the Coastons provide more than a place for great parties and assurance for new students that going to college 1,917 miles from home will be worth the effort. The Coastons still love their DU.

They've shown their love for Dillard as

loyal alumni, annual donors since 1971, committed parents and faithful recruiters. In fact, two of their three children attended Dillard. Their son, George, Jr., graduated in 1987 and today works at Pacific Gas and Electric in the Bay area. One of their daughters, Debra, attended Dillard, but left to get married after meeting a graduating senior.

"I don't know how many students we've recruited to go there. I just encourage students to keep on going with their education and don't stay too long at community college," said Shirley, who now works part-time at Laney College in Oakland as a librarian. She retired as a full-time librarian in 2011 and now works four hours a week. She spent 41 years there before retiring.

After graduating from Dillard, George Coaston served six years in the U.S. Army

and settled in Oakland, where his uncle said it would be easier to get a job. He worked in histology research for a year, and decided to teach general and advanced science classes to seventh through ninth graders before retiring in 1999.

Shirley joined him in Oakland three months after they married in July 1962. They've been together ever since, and have remained committed to their alma mater as much as they have to each other.

"Dillard made a huge difference in my life," Shirley said. "It laid the foundation for the rest of my life. It's where I met my husband and it gave me a great foundation for graduate school. I made lifelong friends... and left prepared for other enterprises in life."

George says the many hours of recruitment at college fairs and the more than \$30,000 they've given to the university over the years show that their time at Dillard meant more than anything money could buy.

"Our days at Dillard were investments in our lives and in time well spent," he said. "We're never going to forget those days, just like we're never going to get tired of giving to a place that still shapes positive futures for so many young people."

George and Shirley Coaston with their nephew Lt. Col. Whitney Allen, '89, and Pat Kilbert, '78, at this year's Reunion Banquet



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

## Frank J. Mason, '71

*Loyal trustee with family ties*

While vacationing in Florida this summer, Frank J. Mason took time to answer a few questions about how Dillard University made a difference in his life.

The first vice chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Mason says his strong family ties to the institution and the dedicated instructors he had here foster his loyalty to the university's mission, students and future.

"My mother graduated from Straight College, and my son, sister and nephew all attended Dillard too," said Dr. Mason, who has shared his resources, time and





Frank J. Mason, '71

talents with Dillard since graduating in 1971. "The instructors there were committed and took the time to make sure I learned from them...you don't get that

type of instruction at larger schools."

Dr. Mason experienced first-hand the differences in instruction styles while studying for his master's degree at Rutgers University in New Jersey. He completed his bachelor's at Dillard, where the now retired business instructor Daniel Thompson groomed the young Mason for a successful venture in graduate school and beyond. "Thompson was one of my favorite instructors," said the New Orleans native, who earned his master's degree in Business Administration, Banking and Finance from Rutgers. Although he settled in the northeast, launching his business ventures and owning 10 McDonald's franchises, Mason never forgets his roots.

"The two schools were nothing alike," he said. "I got hands-on treatment and attention from Dillard instructors. You're on your own at larger institutions."

Dr. Mason used his education to build a

successful business empire, Franglo, Inc., (his name and wife Gloria's name combined). His illustrious career spans across business management ventures, to banking and finance experiences. He belongs to the McDonald's Corporation Metro Cooperative in the New York Metro Region. He is a former vice president of Citibank, serving in the corporation's bankcard division and its international lending division. He was also vice president at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, serving in the institution's foreign department.

As a board of trustee member since 1995, he has chaired the Building and Grounds Committee, guiding and overseeing the renovation and rebuilding of the campus after Hurricane Katrina. In 2007, Dillard awarded Dr. Mason an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters.

Through his vast career ventures and educational pursuits, Dr. Mason has kept Dillard close to his heart. He has contributed \$65,000 annually to his alma mater for several years and continues to help students pursue their degrees from Dillard.

"Dillard University has been an important part of my life for a long time," he said.

#### FACULTY EXCELLENCE

### Dr. Charlotte Hurst, '75

*Giving back as a scientist and nurse*

Since she was 11, Charlotte Hurst wanted to be a nurse. Her mother worked as a certified nursing assistant so by the time Hurst was in high school she knew she wanted to become a "professional" nurse. Now more than three decades later, Hurst never regretted her choice of profession and is doing work in the nursing arena that she had not imagined when she declared it as a career choice.

Her career path has been a progression of training, skills development, and experience in an array of areas including psychiatric mental health, mid-wifery, parent-child nursing, research, behavioral

science and 32 years on the faculty at Dillard.

Hurst is a proud graduate of the Dillard Nursing Program. During the time she matriculated at Dillard, the university offered a special program to provide mental health nurses to help fill the void in the state of Louisiana's mental health services. "I was slated to graduate and begin a clinical career as a psychiatric mental health nurse and go to graduate school," Hurst said. But when she finished her studies at Dillard, the mental health unit at the former Sara Mayo Hospital, an all woman's health facility, wasn't ready and Hurst was assigned to the labor and delivery and perinatal units. "After that, I was hooked and I became interested in working with women," she said. She subsequently

worked at Flint Goodridge Hospital of Dillard University. She then applied to the mid-wifery program at the University of Mississippi in Jackson. After completing the program in 1978, Hurst lived and worked in Hollandale, Miss., for two years.

Hurst later enrolled in Louisiana State University's (LSU) master's program in parent-child nursing and completed her MSN in 1983. While in graduate school, she worked as an assistant professor at LSU in their associate degree program. In 1982, then Dean of Nursing Betty Adams called Hurst to work for one year at Dillard to fill in for an instructor who was working on her doctorate.

"I've been here ever since and I've taught almost every course across the curriculum," she reminisced. "It's always





Dr. Charlotte Hurst, '75

been great. It's been challenging but also rewarding and when I'm no longer giving back... it's time for me to leave." In 2004, Hurst received a Ph.D. in nursing from Hampton University in Virginia.

Currently, Hurst wears two hats, one as junior scientist and the other as co-director of the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities' (NIMHHD) P-20 grant.

As a junior scientist, working with her mentor Human Papilloma virus (HPV) researcher Dr. Michael Hagensee at LSU Health Sciences Center, Hurst offers education to women regarding HPV, which is a precursor to cervical cancer.

Louisiana and New Orleans are above the national norm in the area of cervical cancer, according to Hurst. She noted that this is one of the health disparities she works with because African American women and women of color have a disproportionate mortality rate from cervical cancer. Although they have a lower incidence of the disease they are dying at a rate of three to one compared to the rest of the population. Hurst said that cervical cancer takes 15-20 years to develop and that women of color are more likely to die from it because they don't follow up until it's too late. "My research is to assist with decreasing this statistic and enhancing

the quality of life for women of color," she said.

As a researcher one of the deliverables was to become independently funded. In 2013, a \$200,000 grant from the HBCU Center of Medicaid/Medicare Services provided funding that allowed Hurst's research to continue.

In her role as co-director of the NIMHHD P-20 grant, Hurst trains Clinical Research Associates (CRA) and Clinical Research Coordinators (CRC). The clinical research associate (CRA) program represents the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center's training core. The major goal of this program is to increase the number of minority CRAs in the state of Louisiana, especially in New Orleans, and to ultimately promote greater participation and retention of minorities in clinical trials research.

Hurst explained the criteria for enrollment in the CRA program. Applicants must be licensed Registered Nurses and graduates of a BSN program. While in the program, students track and report the status of clinical trial participants and ensure that federal guidelines are followed in the areas of safety, accuracy and validity as well as the overall monitoring of progress and investigator-initiated clinical

trials. They ensure adherence to quality assurance procedures and Good Clinical Practice (GCP) guidelines.

Thus far, Dillard University has trained 30 students as Clinical Research Associates since receipt of the grant in 2010.

The program is two semesters long, consisting of 12-15 hours a week of didactic instruction during the first semester and a total of 96 hours in a hands-on clinical practicum during the second semester. Students do clinical assignments in hospitals and medical centers such as EXCELth Primary Care, Mary Byrd Perkins Cancer Center, Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center, Tulane, the Interim LSU, and Ochsner Hospital.

Overall, both programs have been going well. "I'm learning a lot and we've been able to develop educational tools to help in the study." She has also presented and published findings.

Hurst says that she's always wanted to give something back to women of color, but just didn't know how. "The P-20 grant has been the way," she said. "My hope is that I can also contribute to a graduate program in the School of Nursing at Dillard. "This would be my greatest contribution."

#### FACULTY EXCELLENCE

### Dr. Warren A. Jones, '71

*Health care activist and leader*

Before accepting the position as Endowed Chair for the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center (MHHDR), Dillard alumnus Warren A. Jones made his mark in the Minority Health Care arena. With over 30 years experience, including a 28-year stint in the U.S. Navy, Jones has led a plethora of initiatives, including assuring equitable health care for minority patients; increasing the number of minorities matriculating at Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Medicine and at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) in

Jackson, where he became the first African American Associate Vice Chancellor; and serving as the head of the State's Medicaid Program, to name a few.

While at UMMC he founded the Mississippi Institute on Improvement of Geographic Minority Health (MIGMH). The MIGMH secured over \$36 million in funding to address health disparities in Mississippi. Later, Louisiana and Alabama were added.

*Dillard Today* recently asked Jones about his vision for Dillard's MHHDR and the role of clinical research in minority communities.

**What is your vision for the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center at Dillard?**



My vision is for the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center here at Dillard to continue to serve as a catalyst to motivate students toward health careers in Nursing, Public Health, Environmental Health, Mental Health, Medicine and Dentistry. In addition, I see the Center playing a key role in supporting faculty development, research and publications. It is through literature that our excellent faculty will be able to have impact beyond the boundaries of our campus. I also see the Center building on the relationships with the academic health centers and clinical care facilities in the Greater New Orleans Area and across the Gulf Coast Region.

**What are some of the challenges you see facing minorities in health care and clinical research? What can Dillard do to address them?**

There are many challenges facing minorities in health care and clinical research.

Today, there are far fewer dollars available to develop those minority students and junior researchers who have the capacity to have a major impact than there was say, 20 years ago. As a result, we have to search more aggressively to identify resources that may suit our needs.

A key to the success of health care for minorities in the future is to have the numbers participating in research through clinical trials increase dramatically. It is through clinical trial success that interventions are identified to fight disease and manage complex health conditions.

**Do you find that minorities are reluctant to participate in clinical research?**

Across America, minorities are reluctant to participate in research efforts and clinical trials. Often, it is due to the constant recitation of the horrific tales of abuse and misuse from days gone by. If we can improve health literacy among minorities, they will know that with the new patient safety and human subject's requirements in place, tragedies like those involving syphilis at Tuskegee or those involving "high doses" of hormones in Puerto Rican women have virtually no chance of occurring again.

Dillard has an Institutional Review Board that reviews and must approve every request for a study that involves human subjects. This type of critical review further safeguards those we love who participate in clinical trials. We must get that message out to our community.

**How has clinical research in underserved communities changed over the course of your career?**

Research in underserved communities has changed dramatically during my career. Today, patients are protected and empowered to demand to know what they are being asked to participate in and must demonstrate an understanding of what their participation entails.

Over the last 15-20 years, researchers and policy-makers have come to the realization that they cannot safely predict how treatments will impact populations that have not been included, in significant numbers, in successful clinical trials. As a result, there has been an increased focus on minority participation in trials.

Clinical Research Associates (CRAs), like those trained through the Center's program, play meaningful roles in serving as intermediaries between researchers and communities and aid in achieving successful collaborations.

**What role does Dillard play in changing the perception of clinical research in the minority community?**

In addition to increasing the numbers of well-trained nurses entering the workforce, the numbers of acceptances into medical and dental schools and the training of more cadres of CRAs, Dillard serves as a platform from which meaningful programs may be projected to minority communities. That community trust is very difficult to maintain and Dillard has done a wonderful job in establishing and building upon that trust.

**How does the partnership with LSU Health Sciences impact the work of the center?**

The LSUHSC is our clinical partner in the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center funded under a P20 grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Dr. John Estrada is the Co-Principal Investigator and LSU plays host to the Research Core. The excellent relationship between senior researchers at LSUHSC and Dillard has paid large dividends.



Dr. Warren A. Jones, '71





Darren Scioneaux, '17, outside the Barrow Stadium office where he works for Major League Baseball's urban youth camp in New Orleans.

#### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

### Sensational Summers for Two of Dillard's Brightest

#### *Major League Baseball in the Cards for Dillard Sophomore*

Darren Scioneaux spent his summer marketing and video taping potential major league baseball players at a camp sponsored here in New Orleans.

As part of the Urban Youth Academy's summer training camp held at the Wesley Barrow Stadium in Ponchartrain Park, Scioneaux combined his passion for baseball with his career goals to analyze and announce the game professionally some day.

Scioneaux, a 19-year-old sophomore and mass communication major, got the opportunity to work with Major League Baseball through his former coach at St. Augustine High School.

"Baseball is my passion and I never thought I'd continue working with the game after I left high school," he said. "But through this camp and my love for broadcasting my career goals are blended."

So far, three MLB Urban Youth Academies are operating to introduce youth to softball and baseball. New Orleans joins similar programs in Houston and Compton, Calif.

Scioneaux will continue working with the youth program during the fall playing season.

#### *UNCF showcased Miss Dillard's Talents and Social Skills in New York Charter School System*

As an ambassador for Dillard University, Ra'Ven Duncan—Miss Dillard 2014–15—spent her summer promoting the institution to high school students she mentored and coached in reading, writing and math as an intern with the United Negro College Fund's Walton Education Reform program.

Duncan, 23, a senior majoring in

sociology and social work, earned a \$4,000 stipend to live and work in Manhattan and Brooklyn, N.Y., from June 2 to July 30. She worked in network support for a 28-school charter system. Students enrolled in summer classes learned firsthand about Dillard University "because between classes, I got the chance to do a presentation about what it's like at Dillard," Duncan said. "These students were really excited to learn about our campus, Dr. Kimbrough and New Orleans."

Although she welcomed the opportunity to experience New York and its bustling culture, Duncan, a Thibodaux, La. native, said she does not aspire to live there after graduating.

"This was a great experience and it taught me so much about education reform and changes that need to be made in schools," she said. "But I'd rather be in my own community working on the same problems. I'm a country girl at heart and love being in the south."



Ra'Ven Duncan, '15, tutors summer school students during her UNCF internship in New York.



## Bleu Devils Cross Country/ Track and Field

Jevonte Ezzard, '15, and Emory Nash '14, both finished in the top 10 and qualified for NAIA nationals at the 2013 GCAC Cross Country Championships at Mississippi College. As a team, the Bleu Devils finished third overall out of five teams with a total time of 2:48:41.44.

However, head coach Bobby Williams and his Bleu Devils brought the championship back to Dillard with a first place overall finish at the 2014 Men's Track and Field Championship at Tad Gormley Stadium in New Orleans.

The win marked the second GCAC Track and Field Championship for the men's team in the last four years. This year the team came together to get over the hump by defeating Edward Waters College in a close race.



Dillard Bleu Devils 4x4 Meter Relay Team (L-R) Jevonte Ezzard, '15, Emory Nash, '14, Coach Bobby Williams, Matthew Jones '15 and Kermit Buggage, '15

Despite going into nationals ranked #19 in the NAIA, the men's 4x100 meter relay team ended up with a third place overall finish at the 2014 NAIA National Championships in Gulf Shores, Ala., with a time of 3:12.80. The team is comprised of Tobyus Simmons, '15, and Ezzard as

well as Matthew Jones, '14, and Nash.

"First of all glory to God for just blessing us to be able to finish third in the nation," said head coach Bobby Williams. "I'm very excited and proud of the guys; for us to finish third is definitely a surprise and a blessing."



Destinee Showell, '15, in the Women's Long Jump at the 2013 GCAC Track and Field Championships



Gabrielle Ware, '17 (front) and Tamara Hundley, '17 (behind) in the Women's 3,000 Meter Steeplechase at the conference meet



(L-R) Dominique Hardin, '16, and Tamara Hundley, '17, in the Women's 3,000 Meter Steeplechase at the conference meet



Destinee Showell, '14, was the lone member on her cross country team to qualify for NAIA nationals with a tenth place finish at the 2013 GCAC Cross Country Championships at Mississippi College with a time of 22:51.46. As a team, the Lady Bleu Devils finished second overall out of five teams with a total time of 1:59:52.37.

Led by Showell, Courtney Henry, '14 and Mo'Nique Waiters '14, Dillard also finished second overall in the 2014 Women's Track and Field Championship at Tad Gormley Stadium in New Orleans.

### **Lady Bleu Devils volleyball team**

Despite adding seven new faces last season, the Lady Bleu Devils started off the season on fire by winning their first five games, including 12 straight sets at one point. The Lady Bleu Devils were able to soften the blow of losing a first-team All-conference player with the emergence of yet another first-team All-conference player, Mercades Chevis, who finished fourth in the GCAC in kills with 2.8 per set.

### **Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Athletics Director of the Year**

The Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) announced that Kiki Baker Barnes is the 2013-14 GCAC Athletics Director of the Year. Barnes recently completed her eighth year in the position at Dillard University, and she also serves as GCAC President. She first won the award back in 2010-11.

"I believe in not being afraid to fail, not worrying about what other people have to say, doing your best, working hard, having integrity," said Barnes.

Highlights of her achievements throughout the academic calendar year include:

- Wrote a grant to help fund the DUFIT Summer Fitness Camp;
- Led and completed facility renovation of athletics weight room which included installing a new floor and purchasing new weight and training equipment;
- Had student-athletes create a "Live 5"



*Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Athletic Director of the Year, Mrs. Kiki Baker Barnes*

hand gesture that was featured at 2014 NAIA National Convention;

- Dillard University athletics received Five Star Champions of Character Award for the sixth year in a row; For the second year in a row, Dillard University won conference Student of Character award (2013-Jonquil Griffin); (2014 - Amber Tramel) as well as Conference Coach of Character award (2014 - Bobby Williams); Men's 4x4 meter relay team finished third in the nation at the NAIA.
- National Outdoor Track & Field Meet; 2014 GCAC Men's Track Championships; 2014 GCAC Women's Track and Cross Country teams both first runner-up; and
- Named to Gambit's Top 40 under 40 list of New Orleans young professionals who are making a difference in a community.

### **DUFIT Kids Camp**

A total of 75 children attended the first annual DUFIT Kids Camp sponsored by the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC).

This year's camp director was Twalla Powell, who has over 15 years of experience in health, human performance and physical education.

For six weeks, campers ages 4-12 took several field trips and visited various places such as the Nature Trail at Joe Brown Park, the Aquarium, the DU Movie Theatre, the UNO Health & Fitness Expo, Airline Skate Center and Audubon Zoo.

The campers also participated in activities including soccer, swimming, martial arts, basketball, track and field and character education.



*The first annual Dillard University "DUFIT" Kids Camp was a positive experience where campers incorporated the five core values of the Champions of Character program in their daily lives.*





"No dream is too big, no vision is too bold. As long as we stay hungry for education and let that hunger be our North Star, there is nothing, graduates, nothing that we cannot achieve."

—First Lady Michelle Obama, Dillard University, May 10, 2014

*First Lady Michelle Obama at the podium*

# One of the most memorable

## First Lady Michelle Obama delivers commencement address

By Mona Duffel Jones

With more than 3,500 people in attendance at the New Orleans Lakefront Arena, it was a pomp and circumstance event that the graduating class of 2014 and Dillard University will never forget. The First Lady of the United States delivered "one of the most memorable commencement addresses of 2014," according to ABC and NBC news as well as more than 200 media outlets in the country. The class of 2014, faculty, staff, and family members as well as the New Orleans community echoed that sentiment.

The First Lady's visit to Dillard was the result of a heartfelt letter from Nicole Tinson, president of the senior class and 2014 graduate. Tinson shared her personal experience with Mrs. Obama, noting that her high school counselor suggested she go to trade school because she wasn't "equipped enough to attend college." Tinson was accepted into Yale for graduate school as well as Teach for America. She was also selected as one of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities' (HBCUs) All-Stars. In her letter, she told Mrs. Obama that if she were to speak at Dillard, the recent arguments about the relevancy of HBCUs would be dispelled. "HBCUs give

students from lower socioeconomic status, the chance to become who they want to be. HBCUs give black students a shot at not only attending college, but graduating from college in pursuit of their dreams," Tinson wrote. Tinson's story resonated with Mrs. Obama and she accepted the invitation to speak at Dillard.

During her address, the First Lady recalled the history of Dillard and talked about the vision of its founders, like former slave Rev. Emperor Williams, who signed the charter for New Orleans University (one of Dillard's predecessors). She reminded graduates of the struggle and sacrifices of their ancestors in building the institution and the hunger for education that many did not have an opportunity to fill. Mrs. Obama quoted Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, from a keynote address at the laying of the cornerstone saying: "There lies in this Southland today, buried in unmarked graves, many a genius who would have blessed this city and this section of our country, if his parents would have had before them the Dillard University you are now building."

Mrs. Obama told the graduates that their graduation was not just the

culmination of their dreams but also the realization of the dreams of those who came before them. Applause erupted when she said: "Today, I stand before a sea of young geniuses."

"You should be so happy and so proud," she added. But she encouraged the class to stay hungry for education as there is still work to be done, pointing out that the high school graduation rates for African Americans is lower than any other group in the country and that the college graduation rates for African American males have flat-lined. "When our young people fall behind in school, they fall behind in life," she added.

She reminded the audience that there are people who helped each of them get to where they are in life today, and that they, too, can make sacrifices to see that others have educational opportunities. "This is your mission and your obligation," she said.

In concluding, Mrs. Obama said: "The history of this school has taught us that no dream is too big, no vision is too bold. As long as we stay hungry for education and let that hunger be our North Star, there is nothing, graduates, nothing that we cannot achieve."



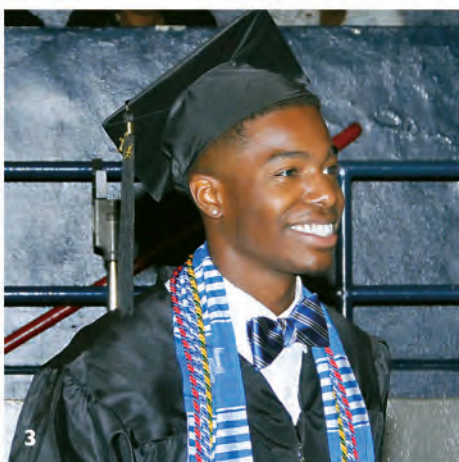


ABOVE: 1. Ward Colin (Mr. Dillard) & President Kimbrough 2. ( L-R) Salutatorians Victor Ogburie and Emole Dimgba, Valedictorian Merrillyn Akpapuna, and Salutatorian Stephen Igwe

BELOW: 3. First Lady receives honorary doctorate from Dr. Kimbrough (L) and Dr. John Wilson.







ABOVE: 1. (L-R) Mary Payne, Darhyl Jasper, Delores Nevels, Carolyn Mangrul 2. Jordan Love 3. Demetrius McCartherens 4. (L-R) Connie Tate, Malvin Abbott, Rachel Hugle, Domonique LeBlanc, Sammietra Lewis

BELOW: 5. New Orleans' singer Germaine Bazzle, renowned jazz star in Dillard University's theater production of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, the pre-commencement fundraiser held on May 8 in the Georges Auditorium. 6. Cast of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, (L-R) Keith Johnson, Chrishira Perrier, Asia Nelson, Cherelle Plamer, Nicole Washington, Rahim Glaspy







ABOVE: **7.** (L-R) Ashley Trepagnier, Stanlecia Kennie **8.** Morgan Wilson **9.** (L-R): Toi Thornton, Kathryn Bell, S. Carver Davenport, Sabrina Smith, Oshele Bowie **10.** Lauren Wiltz

## Baccalaureate Service

The skies opened up just as the last students in the procession entered Lawless Memorial Chapel for the 2014 Baccalaureate Service. Rev. Jamal-Harrison Bryant (below) was the main speaker. This is the second consecutive year that the university implemented its rain plan for both baccalaureate service and commencement exercises.



## Dillard confers five honorary degrees

First Lady Michelle Obama was among five recipients who received honorary doctorates during Dillard University's Commencement Ceremony. Others who received Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters include (L-R) Dillard alumnus Dr. Henry Lacey, who graduated in 1965 with a Bachelor Degree in English Education, U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu (D), Dillard alumna Dr. Sheila Dinotshe Tlou, who graduated in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and Andrew B. Wisdom.





*President Walter Kimbrough delivers his Inaugural Address.*

## Founders' Day spent celebrating a new leader



*Dr. Walter Kimbrough (center) laughs at closing remarks during the inauguration ceremony with Board of Trustee Chairperson Joyce Roche (left) and Pamela Francois, President of the Dillard University National Alumni Association, (right).*

With a message encouraging Dillard University supporters to maintain strength through faith, Walter Mark Kimbrough urged those attending his investiture and Founders' Day celebration on Oct. 19, 2013, to realize that "we are the only ones who can save us."

In his speech, Dr. Kimbrough explained the university's motto: *Ex Fide Fortis*. He said the Latin term means "strength from faith" and that Dillard reflects this motto in its resilience and steadfast efforts to remain relevant among Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Then, as now, the future of these institutions remains uncertain. But last fall, when Dillard University inaugurated Dr. Kimbrough as its seventh president, the campus' energy swelled with a sense of abundance, hope and festiveness.

Events started Thursday, Oct. 17.



with a Brain Food lecture featuring Rev. Jim Wallis, New York Times bestselling author, public theologian and world-renowned expert on ethics and public life. “Teaching students to be educated and good people,” is key to sustaining our institutions, Wallis remarked during his lecture in the Georges Auditorium.

The next evening in the same location, music from the Delfeayo Marsalis Uptown Jazz Orchestra, song star Ledisi, and the Dillard University Concert Choir got the party started at the “Taste of New Orleans” performance event. During this program immediate past president of the national chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Cynthia Butler-McIntyre, '77, nudged other Greek organizations to donate to a fund that helps financially strapped students stay at Dillard. She gave Dr. Kimbrough \$50,000 for the Student Aid for Financial Emergencies (SAFE) Fund. The celebration was on high gear afterwards and ended with a “second line” procession led by a Mardi Gras Indian through the packed audience.

Then on a rainy Saturday morning, Dr. Kimbrough’s investiture ceremony occurred in the Lawless Memorial Chapel, followed by a reception and luncheon provided by Sodexo Food Services. Students performed jazz pieces to serenade the president and his 150 guests in the blue and white draped Kearny Hall main dining room.

On Sunday, Oct. 20, Dr. Walter L. Kimbrough, the president’s father, delivered a soul-stirring sermon to congregants. He urged others to “believe in his son’s leadership capabilities to deliver Dillard to where it needs to be. Leadership will carry this university from where you are...and this man is the right leader for the right time...I know he is, because he was raised right.”

Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough vowed to prove his father right by promising to demonstrate the meaning of “Ex Fide Fortis” in the way he manages Dillard University.



1. The N’Kafu traditional African dance company performed in the “Taste of New Orleans” opening event that launched Inauguration and Founders’ Day celebrations. 2. Delfeayo Marsalis and his Uptown Jazz Orchestra performed traditional New Orleans sounds at the “Taste of New Orleans.” 3. Big Chief David Montana of the Washitaw Nation led the “second line” at the close of the “Taste of New Orleans” celebration.



# Ray Charles program serves up African American culture

By Mona Duffel Jones

*The mission of the Ray Charles Material Culture Program is to research, document, disseminate, preserve, and celebrate African American culture and foodways.*

For most of us who recognize Ray Charles as a musical genius, establishing a program to preserve culinary ways and culture may seem a bit odd. “Ray Charles liked to eat,” said Chef Leah Chase, co-owner of Dooky Chase’s restaurant and matriarch of Creole cuisine in New Orleans. “He liked down home cooking. Red beans and rice and stewed chicken were his favorite,” she added. When Ray Charles visited New Orleans he always ate at Dooky Chase’s restaurant. Her husband, Edgar ‘Dooky’ Chase Jr., co-owner and former music promoter, chimed in to add that he brought Ray Charles to New Orleans early in his career. Charles performed with Lowell Fulson’s band at Club Desire, a black-owned club in the 9th ward. ‘Dooky’ recalled suggesting to Charles that he broaden his base to capture a wider audience and that he record “You Are My Sunshine,” a popular country western song written by Louisiana Governor Jimmie Davis in 1939. In 1962, Charles released his recording of “You Are My Sunshine.” In addition, he recorded “Early in the Morning,” and replaced the original name of the restaurant mentioned with that of “Dooky Chase’s.” The verse ends like this: “... went down to Dooky Chase’s to get something to eat.”

One thing is clear—Ray Charles loved New Orleans. He signed his record deal with Atlantic and developed the Ray Charles sound that we all love right here in New Orleans. Perhaps, this is why he chose New Orleans and Dillard University as the location for the African American Material Culture Program.

Leah Chase said that Ray Charles understood what it meant to give back. “He was trained to pay back. He felt that the food he grew up with would be gone if he didn’t do something to help preserve it,” she added. “I think he appreciated the honor he was given at Dillard and this was his way of giving back --- his legacy.”

The Ray Charles Foundation has given a total of \$4 million to Dillard University since 2003, beginning with a \$1 million gift to start the African American Material Culture Program and a second such gift in 2006 for post-Katrina recovery efforts. Subsequently, there were two more gifts of \$1 million, with the latest received in May 2014 to grow and enhance the program. Culinary historian Dr. Jessica B. Harris helped establish the inaugural program in 2008.

The university recently appointed Zella Palmer as the Director of the Ray Charles Program in African American Material Culture. As program director, Palmer

will develop, implement and oversee the university’s African American Material Culture Program that will serve as the epicenter for the study, preservation and proliferation of culinary studies in the southeast United States.

Palmer brings extensive experience to the position, having previously served as curator at the DuSable Museum of African American History and the Southern Food & Beverage Museum. She has also collaborated on projects with the Art Gallery of Ontario, Royal Ontario Museum, City of Toronto Collections and the Newcomb Art Gallery at Tulane University.

“I am so humbled and honored to be the director of this program,” said Palmer. She discussed why the program means so much to her personally. She mused that her conversation with New Orleans’ Chef Leah Chase was reminiscent of her grandmother, who passed on stories of her heritage and culture. Palmer says she was taught that it was her responsibility to educate and give back. “I come to this position with a great responsibility to our youth to preserve and revitalize our food traditions,” Palmer said.

That is exactly what she plans to do through a series of lectures, creative workshops, cooking demonstrations with local chefs and home cooks, publications,





1. Leah Chase and Zella Palmer, Director of the Ray Charles Program in African American Material Culture 2. Dooky Chase 3. Ray Charles receives honorary doctorate from Dillard University in 2003; photo by José García 4. Food from Dooky Chase's Restaurant

tours, and perhaps, Dillard's own cooking show, are all part of her vision in carrying out the mission of the program. "I want to make sure that this program makes Ray Charles smile from heaven," she said.

With all the food trends and fusion foods, Palmer and Chase agree that it's important to preserve the unique culture and culinary traditions of New Orleans and the south. "My goal is to develop Dillard University's African American

Material Culture Program by going into the kitchens, the communities, the classrooms, the farms and the organizations to bring into the light the living culinary arts and traditions of the south," said Palmer.





David D. Page  
Vice President for Enrollment Management

## Another way of increasing your gift

This time of year is always one of excitement. New and returning students arrive on college campuses ready to pursue their studies to become the next great scientist, politician, lawyer and even university administrator. While many would consider registration as the final aspect of the recruitment cycle, enrollment managers know that a recruitment season is cyclical; it is year round. There is never an opportunity for down time because recruitment of the next bright minds begins before the current class has even stepped foot into their residential hall.

As we embark upon a new recruitment season, continued alumni support is key to the success of Dillard reaching its enrollment goals for the next three to five years.

Dillard University alumni are known for having great pride in their Dillard experience. One of the best ways you can show your pride and enhance the value of your degree is by recruiting academically talented students to attend Dillard. We want to be in partnership with each of you. In this initiative, our goal is to enhance the reputation of Dillard University across the country by recruiting and enrolling the next bright scholars.

Many alumni across the country assist us with contacting prospective students by phone or email, hosting or attending prospective student receptions, and representing Dillard University at local college fairs.

For those of you who do this, **WE THANK YOU.** For those who have yet to participate, we ask that you consider reaching out to young minds in your area and sharing your Dillard experience. By sharing your collegiate experience and professional success with prospective students, you illustrate the benefits of a Dillard University education. You may be the reason a student chooses Fair Dillard!

As alumni, you are the eyes and ears of Dillard University across the country. We need your help to recruit excellent future Bleu Devils! Do you know any outstanding students in grades 8-12? Encourage them to visit the campus and the Dillard University admissions website and provide their contact information. The Office of Recruitment, Admissions and Programming will contact the student with further information about Dillard University.

Be on the lookout for further recruitment opportunities in your area and by all means keep us informed of any of your Alumni Chapter programs in which you think potential students would be interested. The more exposure they have to Dillard, the more likely they are to choose Dillard.

Sincerely,

David D. Page  
Vice President for Enrollment Management



## Dillard garners funding for research, training and student scholarships

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) collaborated with faculty, staff, and administrators to secure over \$10 million in sponsored awards as of July 2014. Additional awards are anticipated later this year.

### **The Impact of a Human Papilloma Virus Educational Intervention Study (EIS) on the Knowledge, Health Beliefs, Health Behaviors, and Increasing the Use of Gardasil Vaccine in Women of Color**

*Principal investigator:* Dr. Charlotte Hurst, associate professor of Nursing

*Agency:* US Department of Health & Human Services/Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

*Amount:* \$200,000

The overall goal of this study is to increase Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) awareness, increase adherence to follow-up and increase HPV vaccination in African American women and/or their daughters or granddaughters, decreasing or eliminating cancer burden and mortality associated with invasive cervical cancer. To achieve this goal this study will develop gender specific and culturally appropriate educational materials.



### **Scholarships For Disadvantaged Students**

*Principal investigator:* Dr. Sharon Hutchinson, chair, School of Nursing

*Agency:* US Department of Health & Human Services/Health Resources and Services Administration

*Amount:* \$2,598,144

The Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students is used to provide scholarship funds for students enrolled in the nursing program at Dillard University. Without these funds, students from economically and environmentally disadvantaged backgrounds would be unable to cover the cost of education necessary to achieve their goals of entering the nursing profession and specifically choosing to work in medically underserved communities.

### **Laser Deposition of Polymer Nano Composite Films**

*Principal investigator:* Dr. Abdalla Darwish, professor of Physics

*Agency:* US Department of Defense/Air Force Research Laboratory

*Amount:* \$1,102,354

The goal of the Laser Deposition of Polymer Nano Composite Films project is to enable Dillard University in establishing research in the area of nano composite polymeric thin films. In addition, this project will enhance and strengthen research-related education and interdisciplinary activities among Physics, Engineering, Chemistry, and Mathematics departments.



### **Dillard University Drainage Project**

*Principal investigator:* Mr. Keith McKendall, assistant vice president, Facilities Management

*Agency:* US Federal Emergency Management Administration/GOHSEP

*Amount:* \$6,500,000

The goal of this project is to mitigate drainage for Dillard University in accordance with the baseflood (100 year) elevation or to three feet above the adjacent grade, depending on available information and local circumstance. These mitigation actions will comply with the new FEMA guidelines, applicable building codes, and engineering standards.





## Respecting our roots

The energy surrounding this year's reunion flourished with the news of Michelle Obama speaking at commencement. Before her visit was announced, however, members of this year's classes were revved up to return to their Fair Dillard to honor this year's theme: "Respecting Our Roots."

From May 8 to 11, more than 200 Dillard graduates toured buildings and classrooms, partied with former classmates and celebrated shared experiences on this luscious campus.

1. Shavon Conerly, Miss Dillard 2004 and Sondra Winfield, Miss Dillard 1972 show off their pins. 2. Class of 2004 at the Southern Cook-out 3. Georgia Simon, Camille Alexanders, and Mary Newman, Class of 1954 4. Former Miss Dillards and a Miss UNCF celebrated at the Soul Luncheon 5. Ronnie Burns, Terry Wilkerson, Warren Jones, and David Sullivan greet Dr. Kimbrough following the donors reception.







**6.** Class photo of the Golden Graduate Class of 1964 **7.** The Class of 1969 is prepared to party! **8.** A few of our many class agents take a moment to pose. **9.** The Class of 1994 pose for their class photo. **10.** Ladies in the Class of 2004 pose at the reunion banquet. How chic! **11.** Ted Ellis, '86, discusses his artwork. **12.** LaTonya Jackson, '03, showcases her work at reunion.



# Support our Scholar Athletes

## 7th Annual **Billy Ray Hobley** Scholarship Gala

Friday, January 30, 2015

2014 Billy Ray Hobley Scholarship recipient Brittany Smith



Tickets on sale January 1, 2015  
[www.dillardbleudevils.com](http://www.dillardbleudevils.com)



## DILLARD vs. XAVIER

Women at 3 p.m., Men at 5 p.m.  
Saturday, January 31, 2015  
Tickets on sale January 1, 2015  
[www.dillardbleudevils.com](http://www.dillardbleudevils.com)







# ALUMNI FAMILY REUNION

*The Living Legacy*

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MAY 7-10

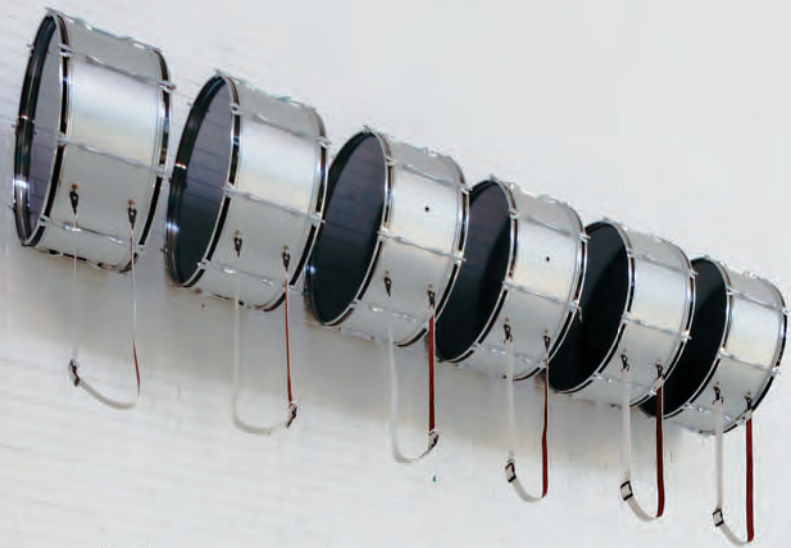
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# *Alumni*today



*Featuring*

CHAPTER NEWS

ALUMNI UPDATES

IN MEMORIAM







Adrian Guy Anderson, '01

## Dear fellow alumni,

The last year has proven a productive year for alumni and our alma mater, which has meant great success for our students. From the selection of Michelle Obama as commencement speaker to the appointment of Dr. Warren Jones, '71, as the Endowed Chair in Health Disparities Research, we have been able to maneuver win-win scenarios that ultimately benefit our students. Through our many conversations, I know that you are proud of the work we do. Ours is a difficult, but noble task: to prepare the next generation of educators and innovators in an economic climate that does not support our efforts.

As faithful alumni, we believe in our university's capacity to harness the talent of our youth and to guide their efforts to craft an unbelievable future. As faithful alumni, we affirm that our Dillard experience has significantly prepared us for the world we live in today. As faithful alumni, we value our tradition of excellence, which prevails in our collective experience.

The continued faith of our alumni remains crucial to our growth and success, however as scripture reminds us "faith without works is dead." As much as we believe in our alma mater and affirm its impact on our lives, it is important to commit every year to put this faith into action by supporting our "Fair Dillard" spiritually and financially.

With Dillard Love,

Adrian Guy Anderson, '01  
*Director, Alumni Relations*

Ezekiel's Wheel, 2003–2004; by Terry Adkins  
(1953–2014); Photo © Mike Smith

Terry Adkins' *Ezekiel's Wheel* is one of the art installations included in the "Prospect.3: Notes for Now" art event that will take place in New Orleans from October 25, 2014 through January 25, 2015. This international arts event will showcase the works of more than 50 local, national and international artists of different generations working in all media at various venues in the Metropolitan area. *Ezekiel's Wheel* is located in the lobby of the Dillard University International Center for Economic Freedom (DUICEF). Terry Adkins died on Feb. 8, 2014.



## CHAPTER NEWS



*Atlanta Chapter at work and having fun*

### ATLANTA CHAPTER

The Atlanta Chapter continues its passion for serving others by working annually with the Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to feed the homeless in downtown Atlanta. During the spring, the chapter hosted the concert choir during their annual tour and also presented the choir, and its director, S. Carver Davenport, with awards. The chapter also recently hosted incoming Dillard freshmen at their annual Summer Send-Off as well as a festive picnic with the Atlanta Inter-Alumni Council of the United Negro College Fund. This fall, the chapter will continue its membership drive, calling upon all alumni in the area for participation and growth.

### DALLAS-FORT WORTH CHAPTER

The Dallas Chapter has had a wonderful year and is planning so much more in the months to come. Since the last issue of the magazine, the chapter hosted its first partnership with Xavier alumni and the House of Blues for "A Taste of New Orleans." The chapter also organized "A Mardi Gras Party" with the House of Blues, a concert featuring the Dillard

University Concert Choir, and it's first ever "DU Game Day." The chapter's annual scholarship fundraiser, the 16th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, was extremely successful, providing more scholarship funding opportunities for Dillard students. Upcoming events include the chapter's Summer Send-Off for incoming freshmen, the 2nd Annual Taste of New Orleans on Nov. 15, and the 17th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on April 19, 2015.

### HOUSTON CHAPTER

The Houston Chapter participated in a number of recruitment initiatives. In



*Dallas Chapter's Terry Wilkerson, '79 and incoming freshman Kenya Moore, '18*

conjunction with the Office of Enrollment Management, the chapter hosted a "Welcome Home Holiday Reception" for current and prospective Dillard students from the Houston area and their parents, just before the Christmas holidays. Additionally, the chapter also hosted the university's Concert Choir at area churches during the choir's annual spring tour as well as a Summer Send-Off for incoming freshmen. For the first time, the chapter will celebrate a reunion among alumni in the Houston area, a Zydeco Brunch, at the 4212 Café. A great time will be had by all.

### LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

The Los Angeles chapter continues with its regular recruitment efforts, including attendance at recruiting events all year and their annual Summer Send-Off for incoming Dillard students from the Los Angeles area. In addition to these events, the chapter continues to host its annual Spring Awards and Scholarship Brunch at the Proud Bird and to participate in Benefits Night at Magic Johnson's TGI Friday's as fundraisers.

### MEMPHIS CHAPTER

The Memphis Chapter has hit the ground running as a new chapter in the association. Having participated in numerous recruiting events to support university efforts, the chapter also sponsored a college tour from Memphis to Dillard University for 40 students at a local high school. The chapter also creates fellowship opportunities with other DU alumni and recently hosted a social night out at the FedEx Forum where the Memphis Grizzlies played the Utah Jazz in basketball. The chapter's local Summer Send-Off will round out their activities for the year before they jump back into a busy fall season.

### NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER

The New Orleans Chapter partnered with the Pre-Alumni Council to host a spring skate party for alumni and students at Airline Skate Center in Metairie, La.





L-R: New York Chapter' Day at the Races, Washington, D.C. Chapter

The students definitely enjoyed themselves. Save the date for the chapter's first Alumni Cruise to Cozumel, Mexico from New Orleans. The cruise will last from Nov. 29–Dec. 4. The cruise is open to all alumni and friends so join them for this fellowship (and fundraising) opportunity.

#### NEW YORK TRI-STATE CHAPTER

The chapter had a wonderful time at their "Annual Day at the Races" event at Belmont Park and anticipates great recruitment success at the August HBCU College Fair during Harlem Week. The New York Tri-State Chapter has "done

it" nine years straight and they are about to do it again! The chapter is calling upon all alumni in the area to help them celebrate (and raise funds) at their 10th Annual Blue & White Scholarship Ball on Oct. 12 at Antun's of Queens Village, N.Y.

## 2014-2015 National Alumni Association Officers

### President

Pamela Francois, '79  
dunaa.president@gmail.com

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

James Alford, '99  
dunaa.1stvp@gmail.com

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Malik Bartholomew, '04  
dunaa.2ndvp@gmail.com

### Recording Secretary

Mackie Norris, '60  
dunaa.recsecretary@gmail.com

### Corresponding Secretary

David L. Sullivan, '71  
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### Financial Secretary

Lilcharles Ladd, '99  
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### Treasurer

Charline Jacob, '59  
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### Parliamentarian

Joyce Faulks Jackson, '79  
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### Sergeant-at-Arms

Phyllis Ball, '73  
pball5876@yahoo.com

### Chaplain

Rev. Otto Duncan Jr., '62  
dunaa.chaplain@gmail.com

### Immediate Past President

Ralph Laster, '61  
dunaa.immedpastpres@gmail.com

## 2014-2015 Alumni Chapters and Presidents

### Atlanta Chapter

Karl Gardner, '79  
karllynn@comcast.net

### Baton Rouge Chapter

Boris White, '06  
dunaabr.president@gmail.com

### Chicago Chapter

LaQuinta Golliday, '95  
duchicagopres@gmail.com

### Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter

Terry Wilkerson, '79  
twilkie79@yahoo.com

### Houston Chapter

Mtangulizi Sanyika, '63  
wazuri@aol.com

### Jackson (Magnolia) Chapter

Monica C. Lanos, '81  
monical77@yahoo.com

### Los Angeles Chapter

Millicent G. Callahan, '85  
dillardalumni@outlook.com

### Memphis Chapter

Quincy Jones, '96  
qjones3@aol.com

### (Greater) New Orleans Chapter

Kimberly Moorehead, '04  
dunaa.neworleanschapter@gmail.com

### New York Tri-State Chapter

Phyllis Ball, '73  
pball5876@yahoo.com

### San Francisco Chapter

Roland Pickens, '85  
roland.pickens@sfdph.org

### Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area Chapter

Erica Williams, '08,  
ewilliams2008@gmail.com

Any person(s) interested in reactivating a chapter or starting a new chapter, please email the DUNAA membership chair at [dunaa.2ndvp@gmail.com](mailto:dunaa.2ndvp@gmail.com).



## ALUMNI UPDATES

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA–SAN FRANCISCO/ BAY AREA CHAPTER

This Northern California Chapter never disappoints in the numerous recruitment events they participate in on the university's behalf. In addition to representing the university at recruitment events, they can always be found representing Dillard at local HBCU functions, such as the Family Day Picnic and their Holiday Mixer.

### WASHINGTON, D.C./ MARYLAND/ VIRGINIA AREA CHAPTER

Putting a new spin on its fundraising efforts, the Dillard University Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area Alumni Association hosted Bleu Devil Night at the theatre in late May. Local alums invited friends and family to attend a performance of *SOLE Defined: The Experiment* (A Percussive Dance Show) at the Atlas Performing Arts Center located in the nation's capital. Then chapter president Giani Clarkson was a creative consultant and featured performer in the show. In partnership with Millennial Week, members of the Dillard University Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area Alumni Association participated in the "Yes We Can: Takeover Middle Schools" event in early June. The chapter volunteer efforts were multifaceted and included teaching area youth to value their education and facilitating interactive learning activities.

Save the date for the chapter's annual Jazz Brunch on Nov. 1 at the Washington Navy Yard Catering & Conference Center, 1454 Parsons Ave. SE, Building 211, Washington, D.C., 20374. For tickets, please contact the chapter at DUWDMAAA@gmail.com.

**Mary Helen Nickleberry, '39**, returned to campus for Alumni Reunion Weekend 2014 and gave her personal account of her life at Dillard as a member of the first graduating class. Listen to her raw, uncut interview at [www.dillard.edu/alumni](http://www.dillard.edu/alumni).

**Dr. Millie McClelland Charles, '43**, retired social worker, educator, and social activist, was recently honored for her lifetime of service with *The Times Picayune* Loving Cup. Past honorees include Albert W. Dent, Norman Francis, and Edith Stern.

**Dr. Ruth Simmons, '67**, former President of Brown University, will receive the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame's Lifetime Achievement Award in September.

**Rev. Barbara Murray, '68**, was recognized in a *Times Picayune* article last May for her lifetime of service to youth and area churches through her gift and talent of playing piano.



Rev. Barbara Murray, '68

**Eugene Lamb, '71**, of Midway, Fla. was recently appointed to the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors as the Representative-at-Large for the northern section of the state.

**Chief Judge Carl E. Stewart, '71**, of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals delivered the commencement address and received an honorary doctorate from Loyola University of New Orleans, College of Law.

**Don Hudson, '76**, received the United Negro College Fund's Outstanding Alumnus Award at the UNCF's Annual National Alumni Council Conference held in Memphis.



Don Hudson, '76

**Cynthia Butler-McIntyre, '76**, received the HBCU Digest's Best Female Alumna Award at the recent HBCU Media Summit awards banquet held on Dillard's campus.

**Tommie Vassel, '78**, was selected to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans.

**Rev. Lawrence Young, '80**, formerly the District Superintendent of the Central South District of the Texas Conference, was recently appointed the 21st pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta.



Rev. Lawrence Young, '80

**Michael Jones, '82**, partner at the law firm Kirkland and Ellis, LLP in Washington, D.C., was named the new Chairman of the Dillard University Board of Trustees.



**Rev. Dr. Bernice Williams Kirkland, '82**, pastor of Hoosier Memorial United Methodist Church, was recently appointed Superintendent of the Atlanta College Park District of the North Georgia Conference.

**Lisa Frazier-Page, '84**, an award-winning author, has been named Managing Producer of the St. Tammany Parish Community News for *The Times Picayune*.

**Rock Anderson, '84**, formerly the Chief People Officer at Manheim, was appointed Regional Vice President of its West Region.

**Marion Bracy, '84**, Vice President of Facility Planning and Management at Xavier University, was recently appointed by New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu to serve on the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans.

**LaQuita Hall, '88**, Vice President of Business Operations, AT&T, received *Women of Color Magazine's* Professional Achievement-Industry award at the 18th Annual Women of Color Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Conference in Dallas.



*LaQuita Hall, '88*

**Marleece Barber, '89**, Chief Medical Officer at Lockheed Martin, was recently elected to the National Business Group on Health's Board of Directors.

**Clarence Rambo, '91**, was recently appointed to serve as the United States Chief Probation Officer of the Middle District of Louisiana. He is the first minority to serve in this capacity.

**April Cotton, '91**, Director of the Intern Leadership Program at Cardinal Ritter Preparatory Academy, is engaged to Dee Brown, a Senior Manufacturing Engineer for Mallinkrodt. Their wedding is planned for September 2014.

**Vince Hudson, '93**, former Proctor & Gamble executive, was named Vice President of Marketing and Operations of Samsung Mobile USA last spring.

**Lamar Davis, '94**, is featured as one of the 20 most Influential African Americans in Arkansas in the Power Play Magazine's first quarter edition of 2014. Go to [www.powerplaymag.com](http://www.powerplaymag.com) to read his profile.

**Michael Griffin, '94**, CEO of Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans, was recently honored with an honorary doctorate degree from Our Lady of the Holy Cross College.



*Michael Griffin, '94*

**Percival Kane, '98**, was named Network Administrator/Senior Vice President of North Oaks Physician Group in Hammond, La.

**Tyrone Singleton, '02**, received a doctoral degree in Educational Administration from Texas Southern University.



*Tyrone Singleton, '02*

**Will Matthews, '04**, an entrepreneur and chief event planner at RSVP with Will, recently published his book *Everything I Needed to Know About Life I Learned from an Event Planner*. The publication may be purchased at [www.RSVPwithWill.com](http://www.RSVPwithWill.com).

## REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

These are Dillard University alumni who have passed away since the last time this publication was issued in the winter of 2013.

Vera Benton, '25

Nellie Y. Crump, '31

Mitchell Spellman, '40

Henry Williams, '50

Jerome Thomas, '53

Jesse Hamilton, Jr., '55

Lillian Yvonne Leonard

Jackson, '57

Rudolph Evans, '60

John Mullen, III, '70

Leshia Heath Smith, '83

Loving memories live on forever.





Pamela Francois, '79, BS, MAEd

## Greetings alumni,

Congratulations one and all, for helping to more than double our alumni giving rate in a single year!! The call went out and you positively responded, displaying your love and appreciation for and pride in our alma mater! This represents a significant increase and we must pledge to keep the momentum going! What an honor to be a part of this legacy that is our "Fair Dillard!"

It all began with the Mass Alumni Conference Call sponsored by DUNAA, where hundreds of alumni called in to hear President Walter Kimbrough and Vice President Marc Barnes share the important information needed regarding alumni giving. We were all educated on the topic, received the statistics and pledged to do our part! And that's exactly what we did! We must now, "each one reach FIVE!" Pledge to give annually, call on our alumni friends who have yet to give and watch as next year's goal is reached and even surpassed!

Let's continue to create "a culture of giving" at our alma mater, recognizing that it's not enough to wait for students to graduate to remind them of their obligation to "the family" but to help instill in them while they are yet matriculating, that we are all obligated to give back to assure the legacy lives on. And we accomplish this by being "examples of what alumni giving looks like!" We must continue to participate fully by investing in our alma mater and the futures of our students. Dillard's reputation is enhanced by higher alumni participation rates and the value of the degrees it offers (including yours and mine) is also enhanced.

The National Alumni Association Chapters across the country are growing and doing amazing things to raise funds for DU. We invite you to join us because individually we can all participate and make a difference, but collectively we can compound these results, creating added opportunities to fellowship with one another while simultaneously perpetuating the Dillard brand.

Many of us have obtained a measure of success since processing down the "Avenue of the Oaks" and are proud of our Dillard ties. WE are "Dillard Forever" and as a result, have an obligation to help secure her for decades to come so that others might be blessed with this same gift. I choose to be a living testimony of service to my alma mater, if for no more than the satisfaction experienced that comes from making an investment in that which invested in me.

So, stay BLEU Alumni and be TRUE, because we are "Forever DU!"

Pamela Francois, '79  
DUNAA National President





**DILLARD**  
UNIVERSITY

## SAVE THE DATES!

### 2014

September 13  
*International Food and Music Festival*

September 18  
*Presidential Lecture Series:  
BRAIN FOOD - Michael Steele*

September 20  
*Upward Bound 50th Anniversary Event*

September 29–October 6  
*Melton Foundation's Global Citizens  
Conference*

October 11  
*UNCF Family 5-K and Walk-a-Thon*

October 14  
*Presidential Lecture Series:  
BRAIN FOOD - Maggie Anderson*

Sunday, October 19  
*Founders' Day*

October 25  
*8th Annual Housing & Home  
Improvement Festival*

November 7–9, 14–16  
*Theater Department's stage play,  
Wole Soyinka's The Lion and  
the Jewel*

November 13  
*Neophyte/Probate Show*

November 14  
*Homecoming Coronation*

November 15  
*Homecoming Parade,  
Tailgate and Basketball Games*

November 16  
*Gospel Revival*

November 23  
*Holiday Concert*

December 2  
*Justice Revis O. Ortique, Jr. Lecture on  
Law & Society - Benjamin Crump*

### 2015

January 30  
*Billy Ray Hobley Scholarship Gala*

January 31  
*Allstate Sugar Bowl Bleu Devil Classic  
Dillard vs. Xavier*

March 24  
*Honors Convocation*

April 28  
*Athletic Awards Ceremony*

May 7–10  
*Reunion Week*

May 8  
*Baccalaureate*

May 9  
*Commencement*



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